

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 251600Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9778

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB SUMMIT AS SEEN BY CAIRO PRESS

SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN CORRESPONDENTS REPORTING ON OCT 24 MEETINGS IN RABAT EMPHASIZE GOJ-PLO DISAGREEMENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSIONS AND FAHMY'S EFFORTS TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN THEM.
END SUMMARY

1. EGYPTIAN CORRESPONDENTS REPORTING FROM RABAT GIVE GLOOMY PICUTRE OF OCT 24 MEETINGS. ALL REPORTS AGREED TENSE ATMOSPHERE PREVAILED AND HEATED WORDS WERE EXCHANGED BETWEEN GOJ PM RIFAI AND PLO'S QADDUMI. AKHBAR QUOTES PLO'S SA'ID KAMAL AS SAYING GOE SUPPORTS PLO POSITION ON WEST BANK BUT, PAPER CONTINUES, FAHMY SAID HE HOPES DIFFERENCES WITH GOJ WILL BE SETTLED. AKHBAR CLAIMS DEBATE BECAME SO STORMY THAT QADDUMI THREATENED TO WALK OUT AND GUMHURIYYA AFFIRMS "RESPONSIBLE
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ARAB OFFICIALS" CONFIDED THAT GOJ/PLO CONFFUCT IS STILLQUN-

RESOLVED.

2. ACCORDING TO GUMHURIYYA'S RABAT CORRESPONDENT, RIFAI TOLD EXECUTIVE SESSION THAT HE HAD WITH HIM A JORDANIAN DIS-ENGAGEMENT PLAN, TO WHICH QADDUMI REPLIED PALESTINIAN PEOPLE DO NOT TRUST GOJ. RIFAI REPORTEDLY THEN SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL DECLARE ITS RESERVATIONS TO PRINCIPLE OF PLO BEING SOLE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE, JUST AS GOJ DID LAST YEAR IN ALGIERS. AHRAH CLAIMS QADDUMI HAS NOW REFUSED TO ATTEND MEETING WITH RIFAI, FAHMY AND KHADDAM EVEN THOUGH QADDUMI HAD PRESENTED MINISTERS WITH A WORKING PAPER WHICH REPORTEDLY INCLUDED FOUR POINTS: A) PLO IS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS "EVERYWHERE"; B) PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED ON EVERY LIBERATED PALESTINIAN AREA; C) PLO IS READY TO REPRESENT PALESTINE AT ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS; AND D) PLO INSISTS ON SUPPORT FROM CONFRONTATION COUNTRIES IN ITS STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE ITS TERRITORY. AT THIS POINT, ACCORDING TO GUMHURIYYA, MORE HARSH WORDS WERE EXCHANGED. FAHMY ALLEGELY MADE PLEA FOR GOJ/PLO RECONCILIATION AND FINALLY KHADDAM ASKED FOR ADJOURNMENT.

3. JUDGING FROM CAIRO PRESS, THREE WORKING PAPERS WERE PRESENTED TO FOREIGN MINISTERS--BY SYRIA, EGYPT AND PLO. NO DETAILS ARE GIVEN ON GOE PAPER BUT GUMHURIYYA OCT 24 REPORTED SARG PAPER OUTLINES ARAB ACTION IN COMING STAGE, DISCUSSES AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION, AND PROPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF ARAB MILITARY SUPPORT FUND TO ASSIST CONFRONTATION COUNTRIES IN CONSOLIDATING THEIR MILITARY POWER. GUMHURIYYA OCT 25 SYAS IT IS "EXPECTED" THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL ADOPT A PAPER DRAWING FROM ALL THREE DRAFTS. AP, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS CITED AS SAYING SYRIAN WORKING PAPER HAD BEEN APPROVED.

4. COMMENT: LONG REPORTS BY EGYPTIAN CORRESPONDENTS IN RABAT OCT 25 LEAVE READER WITH IMPRESSION THAT PLO AND GOJ DIS-AGREED VIOLENTLY IN EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OCT 24 AND THAT FAHMY QUITE FORCEFULLY INSISTED THAT THE TWO SIDES MUST GET TOGETHER. THESE THEMES ARE ECHOED IN EDITORIAL BY AHRAH'S EDITOR IN CHIEF OCT 25 WHICH ALSO EMPHASIZES MAIN POINTS OF WHAT WE UNDERSTAND GOE STRATEGY TO BE. THESE POINTS ARE: A) FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BEFORE COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"PRICE DOES NOT UNDERMINE FUTURE OF CAUSE"; B) GENEVA MAY COME "EARLY OR LATE" DEPENDING ON ARAB AGREEMENT; C) ARABS SHOULD NOT PERMIT ARAB DISAGREEMENT OVER PALESTINE TO "PARALYZE OUR ACTION PENDING AN ARAB UNANIMITY WHICH WILL NEVER OCCUR"; D) GOJ/PLO DISAGREEMENT AND LACK OF CONFIDENCE COULD WRECK GENEVA CONFERENCE; AND E) THEREFORE "ARAB STATES MUST ASSUME THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND EXERT STRONG PRESSURE TOWARD AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA."

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